



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 221206-0261]

RIN 0648-BM02

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2023-2024 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule; inseason adjustments to biennial groundfish management measures.

SUMMARY: This final rule announces routine inseason adjustments to management measures in commercial and recreational groundfish fisheries. This action is intended to allow fishing vessels to access more abundant groundfish stocks while protecting rebuilding stocks.

DATES: This final rule is effective [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Electronic Access: This rule is accessible via the Internet at the Office of the Federal Register Web site at <https://www.federalregister.gov>. Background information and documents are available at the Pacific Fishery Management Council's website at <http://www.pcouncil.org/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Sean Matson, phone: 206-526-6187 or e-mail: sean.matson@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (PCGFMP) and its implementing regulations at title 50 in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 660, subparts C through G, regulate fishing for over 90 species of groundfish seaward of Washington, Oregon, and California. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) develops groundfish harvest specifications and management measures for 2-year periods (biennia). NMFS published the final rule to implement harvest specifications and management measures for the 2023-2024 biennium for most species managed under the PCGFMP on December 16, 2022 (87 FR 77007). The management measures set at the start of the biennial harvest specifications cycle help the various sectors of the fishery attain, but not exceed, the catch limits for each stock. The Council, in coordination with Pacific Coast Treaty Indian Tribes and the States of Washington, Oregon, and California, recommends adjustments to the management measures during the fishing year to achieve this goal.

At its November 2022 meeting, the Council recommended modifying fixed gear trip limits for limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) sablefish, north of 36° N latitude, for LE canary rockfish north and south of 40°10' N latitude, and for LE and OA lingcod north of 42° N latitude; as well as modifying bag limits in the Oregon recreational long-leader fishery, after updated information regarding projected catch and attainment became available, as well as requests from industry. Pacific Coast groundfish fisheries are managed using harvest specifications or limits (*e.g.*, overfishing limits [OFL], acceptable biological catch [ABC], annual catch limits [ACL] and harvest guidelines [HG]) recommended biennially by the Council and based on the best scientific information available at that time (50 CFR 660.60(b)). During development of the harvest specifications, the Council also recommends management measures (*e.g.*, trip limits, area closures, and bag limits) that are meant to control catch so as not to exceed the harvest

specifications. The harvest specifications and management measures developed for the 2023-2024 biennium used data through the 2021 fishing year. Each of the adjustments to management measures discussed below are based on updated fisheries information that was unavailable when the analysis for the current harvest specifications was completed. As new fisheries data becomes available, adjustments to management measures are projected so as to help harvesters achieve but not exceed the harvest limits.

Sablefish

Sablefish is an important commercial species on the West Coast with vessels targeting sablefish with both trawl and fixed gear (longlines and pots/traps). Sablefish is managed with separate ACLs for the two areas north and south of 36° N lat. The 2023 ACLs for the North and South are 8,486 mt and 2,338 mt, respectively.

At the November 2022 Council meeting, the Council's Groundfish Management Team (GMT) received requests from industry members and members of the Council's Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) to examine the potential to increase sablefish trips limits for the fixed gear, LE and OA fisheries north of 36° N lat. The intent of increasing trip limits is to increase harvest opportunities for vessels targeting sablefish. To evaluate potential increases to sablefish trip limits for the LE and OA fisheries, the GMT made model-based landings projections under current regulations and alternative sablefish trip limits, including the limits ultimately recommended by the Council, through the remainder of 2023. Table 1 shows the projected sablefish landings by fishery, relevant sablefish allocations, and the projected attainment as a percentage of the landing target, under both the current trip limits and the Council's recommended adjusted trip limits. These projections were based on the most recent catch information available through late October 2022. Since industry did not request changes to sablefish trip limits for either the LE or OA fishery south of 36° N lat., NMFS and the Council did not consider trip limit changes for those southern fisheries at this time.

Table 1 -- Projected Landings, Allocation, and Projected Percentage of Sablefish Attained Through 2023 by Trip Limit and Fishery. Values in Parentheses Show Uncertainty Range

Fishery	Trip Limits	Projected Landings (mt)	Landing Target (mt)	Projected Target Attainment (Percent)
LE North of 36° N lat.	Current: 2,400 lb/week, not to exceed 4,800 lb/two months	151 (117-186)	417	36 (28-45)
	Recommended: 4,500 lb/week, not to exceed 9,000 lb/two months	253 (196-310)		61 (47-74)
OA North of 36° N lat.	Current: 2,000 lb/week, not to exceed 4,000 lb/two months	322 (278-367)	687	47 (40-53)
	Recommended: 3,000 lb/week, not to exceed 6,000 lb/two months	448 (386-509)		65 (56-74)

As shown in Table 1, under the current trip limits, the models predict landings of sablefish will be at 36 percent, or 151 mt of the 417 mt landing target (the target is the allocation share converted to landings, reduced for discard mortality) for LE fishery north of 36° N lat.; and 47 percent, or 322 mt of the 687 mt landing target, for the OA fishery north of 36° N lat. Under the Council’s recommended trip limits, sablefish attainment is projected to increase in the LE and OA fisheries north of 36° N lat., to 61 and 65 percent, respectively.

Trip limit increases for sablefish are intended to increase attainment of the non-trawl HG. The proposed trip limit increases do not change projected impacts to co-occurring overfished species compared to the impacts anticipated in the 2023-2024 harvest specifications because the projected impacts to those species assume that the entire sablefish ACL is harvested. Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing, by modifying Tables 2 North and South to part 660, subpart E, and Tables

3 North and South to part 660, subpart F, trip limit changes for the LE sablefish fishery north of 36° N lat. and trip limit changes for the OA sablefish fishery north of 36° N lat. as shown above in Table 1. These changes will start with Period 1 (January and February) and remain in place through the end of 2023 and beyond, unless otherwise modified.

Canary Rockfish

Prior to the November 2022 meeting, the GMT received a request from the GAP to increase the canary rockfish OA north of 40°10' N lat. trip limit both to enable a viable alternative to potentially limited Dungeness crab fishing opportunities at the beginning of the year, and to better align with the yellowtail rockfish trip limit in order to reduce regulatory discarding of canary rockfish. The 2023 coastwide ACL for canary rockfish is 1,284 mt.

To evaluate potential increases to canary rockfish trip limits, the GMT made model-based landings projections under current regulations and alternative trip limits, including the limits ultimately recommended by the Council, for the LE and OA fisheries throughout the 2023 fishing year. The GMT evaluated changes to the trip limits for canary rockfish both north and south of 40°10' N lat. Table 2 shows the projected canary rockfish landings, the canary rockfish allocations, and the projected attainment percentage by fishery under both the current trip limits and the Council's recommended adjusted trip limits for north of 40°10' N lat. and Table 3 shows the same metrics for south of 40°10' N lat. These projections were based on the most recent catch information available through late October 2022.

Table 2 -- Projected Landings and Attainment for Canary Rockfish, for the 2023 Fishing Year by Fishery, Area, and Trip Limit, Under Current Regulations

Fishery	Trip limit	Projected landings (mt)	Projected sum landings (mt)	Percent attainment 2023 non-trawl share (121.2 mt)
LE North of 40°10' N lat.	3,000 lb/two months	4.2	27.5	23

OA North of 40°10' N lat.	1,000 lb/two months	5.2		
LE South of 40°10' N lat.	3,500 lb/two months	5.9		
OA South of 40°10' N lat.	1,500 lb/two months	12.2		

Table 3 -- Projected Landings and Attainment for Canary Rockfish, for the 2023 Fishing Year by Fishery, Area, and Trip Limit, under Council-Recommended Trip Limits

Fishery	Trip limit	Projected landings (mt)	Projected sum landings (mt)	Percent attainment 2023 non-trawl share (121.2 mt)
LE North of 40°10' N lat.	4,000 lb/two months	5.6	39	32
OA North of 40°10' N lat.	2,000 lb/two months	10.4		
LE South of 40°10' N lat.	4,000 lb/two months	6.8		
OA South of 40°10' N lat.	2,000 lb/two months	16.2		

Under the current trip limits, the model predicts catches of canary rockfish coastwide will total 27.5 mt (including discard mortality), which is 23 percent of the 2023 non-trawl commercial share of canary rockfish (121.2 mt). Under the Council's recommended trip limits, canary rockfish mortality is expected to increase to 39 mt coastwide (including discard mortality), which is 32 percent of the 2023 non-trawl commercial share of canary rockfish.

Trip limit increases for canary rockfish are intended to increase attainment of the non-trawl commercial share. The proposed trip limit increases do not change projected impacts to co-occurring overfished species compared to the impacts anticipated in the 2023-2024 harvest specifications because the projected impacts to those species assume that the entire canary rockfish ACL is harvested. Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing, by modifying Tables 2 North and South to part 660, subpart E, and Tables 3 North and South to part 660, subpart F, trip limit changes for LE canary

rockfish north and south of 40°10' N lat. and trip limit changes for OA canary rockfish fishery north and south of 40°10' N lat. as shown above in Tables 2 and 3. These changes will start with Period 1 (January and February) and remain in place through the end of 2023 and beyond, unless otherwise modified.

Lingcod

For the November 2022 meeting, the GMT also received a request to continue the lingcod trip limits north of 42° N lat. at the same levels from Period 6 of 2022, in order to continue the effect of reduced regulatory discarding and increased economic opportunity. Lingcod is managed with an ACL north of 40°10' N lat. and an ACL south of 40°10' N lat. The 2023 ACL for lingcod north of 40°10' N lat. is 4,378 mt.

To evaluate potential impacts of the requested increases to lingcod trip limits north of 42° N lat., the GMT made model-based landings projections under current regulations and alternative trip limits, including the limits ultimately recommended by the Council, for the LE and OA fisheries for 2023. Table 4 shows the projected lingcod landings, the lingcod allocations, the projected attainment percentage, and accompanying estimated yelloweye rockfish impacts by fishery, under both the current trip limits and the Council's recommended adjusted trip limits for north of 42° N lat. These projections were based on the most recent catch information available through October 2022.

Table 4 -- Projected Landings of Lingcod, Lingcod Allocation, Projected Percentage of Lingcod North of 42° N lat. Attained Through the end of the Year by Trip Limit and Fishery, Together with Projected Yelloweye Rockfish Impacts

Fishery	Trip limits	Projected lingcod landings (mt)	Non-trawl lingcod allocation (mt)	Projected lingcod attainment (Percent)	Projected yelloweye rockfish impacts (mt)
LE North of 42° N lat.	Current: 5,000 lb/two months	24.3	2,573.8	5.2	1.11
OA North of 42° N lat.	Current: 2,500 lb/ month	110.4			

LE North of 42° N lat.	Recommended: 7,000 lb/two months	30.0	2573.8	6.2	1.32
OA North of 42° N lat.	Recommended: 3,500/month	129.4			

Under the current trip limits, the model predicts catches of lingcod north of 42° N lat. will total 134.7 mt, which is 5.2 percent of the 2023 non-trawl allocation of lingcod (2,573.8 mt). Under the Council's recommended trip limits, lingcod mortality north of 42° N lat. is expected to increase to 159.4 mt, which is 6.2 percent of the 2023 non-trawl allocation of lingcod (2,573.8 mt).

Trip limit increases for lingcod are intended to marginally increase attainment of the non-trawl allocation. The proposed trip limit increases do not appreciably change projected impacts to co-occurring rebuilding species (yelloweye rockfish) compared to the impacts anticipated in the 2023-2024 harvest specifications (Table 4). At the higher level of the lingcod non-trawl allocation, projected impacts to yelloweye rockfish are still projected to be the same under either current or recommended trip limits (3.9 mt), due a projection of yelloweye bycatch levels assuming the entire lingcod allocation is attained, in the harvest specifications analysis.

Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing, by modifying Table 2 North to part 660, subpart E, and Table 3 North to part 660, subpart F, trip limit changes for LE and OA lingcod north of 42° N. lat. as shown above in Table 4. These changes will start with Period 1 (January and February) and remain in place through the end of 2023 and beyond, unless otherwise modified.

Oregon recreational long-leader fishery

At the November 2022 Council meeting, the GMT and ODFW received requests from members of industry and the GAP, to examine the potential for increasing the daily bag limit in the Oregon recreational long-leader fishery to more than the current 10 fish

per day. Increasing the daily bag limit is intended to encourage additional anglers to participate in the long-leader fishery, in order to reduce effort on nearshore stocks such as black, China, copper, and quillback rockfishes because the 2023-24 harvest limits for many nearshore rockfish stocks are very small. At the same time, Oregon experienced record groundfish effort in 2022, which fits within a continuing trend of high effort since 2015 forward, and implies similar fishery behavior in 2023. Impacts of the proposed action were analyzed by ODFW staff, and the Council ultimately recommended the daily bag limit in the Oregon recreational long-leader fishery to be increased from 10 to 15 fish per day.

ODFW staff presented an analysis in which they deterministically projected 2023 catch by expanding results of the long-leader EFP (2018-2022), to simulate potential catch under a 15 fish per day limit. The results appear in Table 5. ODFW staff found that the increases in catch were small and well within relevant harvest specifications.

Table 5 – ODFW’s Projected Annual Impacts in mt (salmon = counts), for 15 Fish and 10 Fish per Day Bag Limit Using Long-Leader Gear^{/a}

Species	Projected average catch (recom-mended)	Projected max (recom-mended)	Hist. avg. with 10 fish limit (current)	Potential max additional impacts (proj. max – current avg.)
Yellowtail RF	23.58	39.87	15.72	24.15
Widow RF	4.47	10.24	2.98	7.26
Canary RF	12.84	17.13	8.56	8.58
Silvergray RF	0.12	0.22	0.08	0.14
Redstripe RF	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.01
Greenstriped RF	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Chillipepper RF	0.02	0.09	0.02	0.08
Deacon RF	0.14	0.33	0.09	0.24
Black RF	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.03
Blue RF	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.03

Yelloweye RF (discard mortality)	0.2	0.29	0.13	0.16
Quillback RF	0	0	0	0
Bocaccio	1.89	4.11	1.26	2.85
Vermilion RF	0	0	0	0
Copper RF	0	0	0	0
Chinook Salmon	32	96	21	75
Coho Salmon	217	561	145	416

a/ Columns from left to right: Species; Projected average catch w/ 15 fish per day limit (recommended); Projected maximum catch with 15 fish per day limit (recommended); Historical average catch using 10 fish per day limit (current); Potential maximum additional impacts (difference between Projected Maximum and Historical average under 10-fish limit (current), column 3 minus column 4).

Using a conservative approach (risk averse), using the difference between the expanded (1.5x) maximum annual actual catch from the 5-year period, and subtracting the average actual catch from the same period, ODFW staff provided an estimate of “Potential maximum additional impacts” (far right column, Table 5), as projections of maximum potential additional catch as a result of increasing the bag limit from 10 to 15 fish. As evidence of inconsequential impacts to the ACLs, the analysis also compared the “potential maximum additional impacts”, with the amount of uncaught fish for each species, in the most recent fishing year (2021), noting that for species other than yellowtail, canary, widow, and yelloweye rockfish, the projected maximum impacts were less than 0.3 mt, and thus were not presented (Table 6). For those species with projected maximum catch greater than 0.3 mt, 2021 catch statistics (most recent complete data year available) showed sizable buffers in attainment of the non-trawl allocation, which would easily absorb the projected additional mortality of this action (Table 6).

Table 6 -- 2021 Harvest Specifications, Sector-Specific Allocations, and Mortality Estimates, and 2023 Projections (right column) for Yellowtail, Widow, Canary, Yelloweye, and Bocaccio Rockfishes

Species	ACL	Total mortal- ity	Percent of ACL attain- ment	Non- trawl alloca- tion	Non- trawl mort.	% of non-trawl allocation	OR rec. HG	OR rec. mort.	Potential max addition. impacts
Yellowtail	6,050	2,931	48	601.5	96	16	N/A	28	24.2

Widow	14,725	10,880	74	400	11.5	3	N/A	3.6	7.3
Canary	1,338	562	42	351.6	178.3	51	65.06	38.5	8.6
Yelloweye	50	18	36	37.9	16.7	44	6.9	3.3	0.16
Bocaccio north of 40° 10' N lat.	221	89	40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5	2.9

The proposed bag limit increases do not appreciably change projected impacts to co-occurring rebuilding species (yelloweye rockfish) compared to the impacts anticipated in the 2023-2024 harvest specifications (Table 6). Therefore the Council recommended, and NMFS is implementing, trip limit changes for the Oregon recreational long-leader fishery from 10 to 15 fish per day, by modifying 50 CFR part 660.360, subpart G, paragraph (c)(2)(iii)(A)(Marine fish) to maintain the previous restrictions, and place a separate bag limit on the long-leader fishery only. The new paragraph text will read: “(A) Marine fish. The bag limit is 10 marine fish per day, which includes rockfish, kelp greenling, cabezon and other groundfish species; except the daily bag limit in the long-leader gear fishery is 15 fish per day. The bag limit of marine fish excludes Pacific halibut, salmonids, tuna, perch species, sturgeon, sanddabs, flatfish, lingcod, striped bass, hybrid bass, offshore pelagic species and baitfish (herring, smelt, anchovies and sardines). The minimum size for cabezon retained in the Oregon recreational fishery is 16 in (41 cm) total length.” These changes will be effective beginning in January, 2023 and remain in place through the end of 2023 and beyond, unless otherwise modified.

Classification

This final rule makes routine inseason adjustments to groundfish fishery management measures, based on the best scientific information available, consistent with the PCGFMP and its implementing regulations.

This action is taken under the authority of 50 CFR 660.60(c) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

The aggregate data upon which these actions are based, are available for public inspection by contacting Dr. Sean Matson in NMFS West Coast Region (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, above), or view at the NMFS West Coast Groundfish website: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/west-coast-groundfish>.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b), NMFS finds good cause to waive prior public notice and an opportunity for public comment on this action, as notice and comment would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. The adjustments to management measures in this document increase trip limits for fisheries in Washington, Oregon, and California to allow additional economic opportunity while keeping catch within allocations established by the 2023-2024 harvest specifications. The trip limit increases are for the LE and OA sectors for sablefish north of 36° N lat., canary rockfish, and lingcod north of 42° N lat. Over the year 2023, these changes are projected to potentially increase economic value of the fisheries by \$989,793 for sablefish, \$71,025 for canary, and \$122,777 for lingcod, as well as reduce regulatory discards in these fisheries. The increases to bag limits in the Oregon recreational long-leader fishery are needed to encourage seaward effort redistribution, in order to prevent conservation issues in the nearshore. No aspect of this action is controversial, and changes of this nature were anticipated in the final rule for the 2023-2024 harvest specifications and management measures which published on December 16, 2022 (87 FR 77007).

Delaying implementation to allow for public comment would likely reduce the economic benefits to the commercial fishing industry and the businesses that rely on that industry, because it is unlikely the new regulations would publish and could be implemented in time to realize the projected benefits to fishing communities and the resource. A delay in implementation could also contribute to conservation issues with nearshore rockfish species, without swift implementation incentives for seaward redistribution of recreational fishing effort in the Oregon recreational long-leader fishery.

Therefore, providing a comment period for this action could significantly limit the economic benefits to the fishery, and would hamper the achievement of optimum yield from the affected fisheries.

Therefore, the NMFS finds reason to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(1) so that this final rule may become effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**. The adjustments to management measures in this document affect fisheries by increasing opportunity and allowing greater economic benefit. These adjustments were requested by the Council's advisory bodies, as well as members of industry during the Council's November 2022 meeting, and recommended unanimously by the Council. No aspect of this action is controversial, and changes of this nature were anticipated in the biennial harvest specifications and management measures established through a notice and comment rulemaking for 2023-2024 (87 FR 77007).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 660

Fisheries, Fishing, and Indian Fisheries.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.*, and 16 U.S.C. 7001 *et seq.*

Dated: January 23, 2023.

Kelly Denit,
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 660 is amended as follows:

PART 660—FISHERIES OFF WEST COAST STATES

1. The authority citation for part 660 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.*, and 16 U.S.C. 7001 *et seq.*

2. Revise Table 2 (North) to part 660, subpart E, to read as follows:

Table 2 (North) to Part 660, Subpart E -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 40°10' N lat.

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

1/16/2023

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:						
¹ North of 46°16' N lat.	shoreline - 100 fm line ^{1/}					
² 46°16' N lat. - 40°10' N lat.	30 fm line ^{1/} - 100 fm line ^{1/}					
See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Bank, and EFHCAs).						
State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.						
³ Minor Slope Rockfish^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish	8,000 lb/ 2 months					
⁴ Pacific ocean perch	3,600 lb/ 2 months					
⁵ Sablefish	4,500 lb/ week, not to exceed 9,000 lb /2 months					
⁶ Longspine thornyhead	10,000 lb/ 2 months					
⁷ Shortspine thornyhead	2,000 lb/ 2 months			2,500 lb/ 2 months		
⁸ Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder,	10,000 lb/ month					
⁹ Other Flatfish^{3/ 7/}						
¹⁰ Whiting	10,000 lb/ trip					
¹¹ Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/}	800 lb/ month					
¹² Widow rockfish	4,000 lb/ 2 months					
¹³ Yellowtail rockfish	3,000 lb/ month					
¹⁴ Canary rockfish	4,000 lb/ 2 months					
¹⁵ Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED					
¹⁶ Minor Nearshore Rockfish, Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish, & black rockfish^{4/}						
¹⁷ North of 42°00' N lat.	5,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or blue/deacon rockfish ^{3/}					
¹⁸ 42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat. Minor Nearshore Rockfish	2,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 75 lb may be quillback rockfish, and of which no more than 75 lb may be copper rockfish					
¹⁹ 42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat. Black Rockfish	7,000 lb/ 2 months					
²⁰ Lingcod^{5/}						
²¹ North of 42°00' N lat.	7,000 lb/ 2 months					
²² 42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat.	2,000 lb/ 2 months					
²³ Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months					
²⁴ Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months		100,000 lb/ 2 months	
²⁵ Longnose skate	Unlimited					
²⁶ Other Fish^{6/} & Cabezon in California	Unlimited					
²⁷ Oregon Cabezon/Kelp Greenling	Unlimited					
²⁸ Big skate	Unlimited					

TABLE 2 (North)

TABLE 2 (North)

^{1/} The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

^{2/} Minor Shelf and Slope Rockfish complexes are defined at § 660.11. Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish.

^{3/} "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

^{4/} For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09.50' N lat.), and between Destruction Is. (47°40' N lat.) and Leadbetter Pnt. (46°38.17' N lat.), there is an additional limit of 100 lb or 30 percent by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel, per fishing trip.

^{5/} The minimum size limit for lingcod is 22 inches (56 cm) total length North of 42° N lat. and 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N lat.

^{6/} "Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

^{7/} LEFG vessels may be allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using hook and line only. See § 660.230 (d) of the regulations for more information.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

3. Revise Table 2 (South) to part 660, subpart E, to read as follows:

Table 2 (South) to Part 660, Subpart E -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear South of 40°10' N lat.

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

1/16/2023

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:						
1	40°10' N lat. - 38°57.5' N lat.		40 fm line ^{1/} - 125 fm line ^{1/}			
2	38°57.5' N lat. -34°27' N lat.		50 fm line ^{1/} - 125 fm line ^{1/}			
3	South of 34°27' N lat.		100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} (also applies around islands)			
See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).						
State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.						
4	Minor Slope rockfish^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish		40,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 6,000 lb may be blackgill rockfish			
5	Splitnose rockfish		40,000 lb/ 2 months			
6	Sablefish					
7	40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat.		4,500 lb/ week, not to exceed 9,000 lb /2 months			
8	South of 36°00' N lat.		2,500 lb/ week			
9	Longspine thornyhead		10,000 lb/ 2 months			
10	Shortspine thornyhead					
11	40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.		2,000 lb/ 2 months		2,500 lb/ 2 months	
12	South of 34°27' N lat.		3,000 lb/ 2 months			
13	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder,		10,000 lb/ month			
14	Other Flatfish^{3/8/}					
15	Whiting		10,000 lb/ trip			
16	Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/}					
17	40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.		8,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 500 lb may be vermillion			
18	South of 34°27' N lat.		5,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 3,000 lb may be vermillion			
19	Widow					
20	40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.		10,000 lb/ 2 months			
21	South of 34°27' N lat.		8,000 lb/ 2 months			
22	Chilipepper					
23	40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.		10,000 lb. / 2 months			
24	South of 34°27' N lat.		8,000 lb. / 2 months			
25	Canary rockfish		4,000 lb/ 2 months			
26	Yelloweye rockfish		CLOSED			
27	Cowcod		CLOSED			
28	Bronzespotted rockfish		CLOSED			
29	Bocaccio		6,000 lb/ 2 months			
30	Minor Nearshore Rockfish					
31	Shallow nearshore ^{4/}		2,000 lb/ 2 months			
32	Deeper nearshore ^{5/}		2,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 75 lb may be quillback rockfish, and of which no more than 75 lb may be copper rockfish			
33	California Scorpionfish		3,500 lb/ 2 months			
34	Lingcod^{6/}		1,600 lb / 2 months			
35	Pacific cod		1,000 lb/ 2 months			
36	Spiny dogfish		200,000 lb/ 2 months	150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months	
37	Longnose skate		Unlimited			
38	Other Fish^{7/} & Cabezon in California		Unlimited			
39	Big Skate		Unlimited			
40						

TABLE 2 (South)

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ Minor Shelf and Slope Rockfish complexes are defined at § 660.11. Pacific ocean perch is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish. Blackgill rockfish have a species specific trip sub-limit within the Minor Slope Rockfish cumulative limit. Yellowtail rockfish are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Bronzespotted rockfish have a species specific trip limit.

3/ "Other Flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ "Shallow Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(1).

5/ "Deeper Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(2).

6/ The commercial minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N lat.

7/ "Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

8/ LEFG vessels may be allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using hook and line only. See § 660.230 (d) of the regulations for more information.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

4. Revise Table 3 (North) to part 660, subpart F, to read as follows:

Table 3 (North) to Part 660, Subpart F -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears North of 40°10' N lat.

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

1/16/2023

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:							
1	North of 46°16' N lat.	shoreline - 100 fm line ^{1/}					
2	46°16' N lat. - 40°10' N lat.	30 fm line ^{1/} - 100 fm line ^{1/}					
See §§660.60, 660.330 and 660.333 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Bank, and EFHCAs).							
State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.							
3	Minor Slope Rockfish ^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish	2,000 lb/ month					
4	Pacific ocean perch	100 lb/ month					
5	Sablefish	3,000 lb/ week, not to exceed 6,000 lb/ 2 months					
6	Shortpine thornyheads	50 lb/ month					
7	Longspine thornyheads	50 lb/ month					
8	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other	5,000 lb/ month					
10	Flatfish ^{3/ 7/}						
11	Whiting	300 lb/ month					
12	Minor Shelf Rockfish ^{2/}	800 lb/ month					
13	Widow rockfish	2,000 lb/ 2 months					
14	Yellowtail rockfish	1,500 lb/ month					
15	Canary rockfish	2,000 lb/ 2 months					
16	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED					
17	Minor Nearshore Rockfish, Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish, & black rockfish						
18	North of 42°00' N lat.	5,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or blue/deacon rockfish ^{4/}					
19	42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat. Minor Nearshore Rockfish	2,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 75 lb may be quillback rockfish, and of which no more than 75 lb may be copper rockfish					
20	42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat. Black rockfish	7,000 lb/ 2 months					
21	Lingcod ^{5/}						
22	North of 42°00' N lat.	3,500 lb/ month					
23	42°00' N lat. - 40°10' N lat.	1,000 lb/ month					
24	Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months					
25	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months	150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months			
26	Longnose skate	Unlimited					
27	Big skate	Unlimited					
28	Other Fish ^{6/} & Cabezon in California	Unlimited					
29	Oregon Cabezon/Kelp Greenling	Unlimited					
30	SALMON TROLL (subject to RCAs when retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish and lingcod, as described below)						
31	North	Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 500 lb of yellowtail rockfish per month as long as salmon is on board, both within and outside of the RCA. Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lingcod per 2 Chinook per trip, plus 1 lingcod per trip, up to a trip limit of 10 lingcod, on a trip where any fishing occurs within the RCA. The lingcod limit only applies during times when lingcod retention is allowed, and is not "CLOSED." These limits are within the per month limits described in the table above, and not in addition to those limits. All groundfish species are subject to the open access limits, seasons, size limits and RCA restrictions listed in the table above, unless otherwise stated here.					
32	PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL (not subject to RCAs)						
33	North	Effective April 1 - October 31: Groundfish: 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/month; canary, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of these species count toward the per day and per trip groundfish limits and do not have species-specific limits. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.					

TABLE 3 (North)

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ Minor Shelf and Slope Rockfish complexes are defined at § 660.11. Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod rockfishes are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Splittnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish.

3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curffin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09.50' N lat.), and between Destruction Is. (47°40' N lat.) and Leadbetter Pnt. (46°38.17' N lat.), there is an additional limit of 100 lbs or 30 percent by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel, per fishing trip.

5/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 22 inches (56 cm) total length North of 42° N lat. and 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N lat.

6/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

7/ Open access vessels may be allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using hook and line only. See § 660.330 (d) of the regulations for more information.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

5. Revise Table 3 (South) to part 660, subpart F, to read as follows:

Table 3 (South) to Part 660, Subpart F -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears South of 40°10' N lat.

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

1/16/2023

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:						
1 40°10' N lat. - 38°57.5' N lat.	40 fm line ^{1/} - 125 fm line ^{1/}					
2 38°57.5' N lat. -34°27' N lat.	50 fm line ^{1/} - 125 fm line ^{1/}					
3 South of 34°27' N lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} (also applies around islands)					
See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).						
State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.						
4 Minor Slope Rockfish^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish	10,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 2,500 lb may be blackgill rockfish					
5 Splitnose rockfish	200 lb/ month					
6 Sablefish						
7 40°10' N lat. - 36°00' N lat.	3,000 lb/ week, not to exceed 6,000 lb/ 2 months					
8 South of 36°00' N lat.	2,000 lb/ week, not to exceed 6,000 lb/ 2 months					
9 Shortpine thornyheads						
10 40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	50 lb/ month					
11 Longspine thornyheads						
12 40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	50 lb/ month					
13 Shortpine thornyheads and longspine thornyheads						
14 South of 34°27' N lat.	100 lb/ day, no more than 1,000 lb/ 2 months					
15 Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish^{38/}	5,000 lb/ month					
16 Whiting	300 lb/ month					
17 Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/}						
20 40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	4,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 400 lb may be vermilion					
21 South of 34°27' N lat.	3,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb may be vermilion					
22 Widow rockfish						
23 40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	6,000 lb/ 2 months					
24 South of 34°27' N lat.	4,000 lb/ 2 months					
25 Chilipepper						
26 40°10' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	6,000 lb/ 2 months					
27 South of 34°27' N lat.	4,000 lb/ 2 months					
28 Canary rockfish	2,000 lb/ 2 months					
29 Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED					
30 Cowcod	CLOSED					
31 Bronzespotted rockfish	CLOSED					
32 Bocaccio	4,000 lb/ 2 months					
Minor Nearshore Rockfish						
34 Shallow nearshore ^{4/}	2,000 lb/ 2 months					
35 Deeper nearshore ^{5/}	2,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 75 lb may be quillback rockfish, and of which no more than 75 lb may be copper rockfish					
36 California Scorpionfish	3,500 lb/ 2 months					
37 Lingcod^{6/}	700 lb / month					
38 Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months					
39 Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months		100,000 lb/ 2 months	
40 Longnose skate	Unlimited					
41 Big skate	Unlimited					
42 Other Fish^{7/} & Cabezon in California	Unlimited					

TABLE 3 (South)

TABLE 3 (South)

Table 3 (South) Continued

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

1/16/2023

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:							
43	40°10' N lat. - 38°57.5' N lat.	40 fm line ^{1/} - 125 fm line ^{1/}					
44	38°57.5' N lat. -34°27' N lat.	50 fm line ^{1/} - 125 fm line ^{1/}					
45	South of 34°27' N lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/} (also applies around islands)					
See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).							
46	SALMON TROLL (subject to RCAs when retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish, as described below)						
47	South of 40°10' N lat.	Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lb of yellowtail rockfish for every 2 lb of Chinook salmon landed, with a cumulative limit of 200 lb/month, both within and outside of the RCA. This limit is within the 4,000 lb per 2 month limit for minor shelf rockfish between 40°10' and 34°27' N lat., and not in addition to that limit. All groundfish species are subject to the open access limits, seasons, size limits and RCA restrictions listed in the table above, unless otherwise stated here.					
48	RIDGEBACK PRAWN AND, SOUTH OF 38°57.50' N lat., CA HALIBUT AND SEA CUCUMBER NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL						
49	NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) for CA Halibut, Sea Cucumber & Ridgeback Prawn:						
50	40°10' N lat. - 38°00' N lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 200 fm line ^{1/}	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}				100 fm line ^{1/} - 200 fm line ^{1/}
51	38°00' N lat. - 34°27' N lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}					
52	South of 34°27' N lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ^{1/}					
53		Groundfish: 300 lb/trip. Species-specific limits described in the table above also apply and are counted toward the 300 lb groundfish per trip limit. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of the target species landed, except that the amount of spiny dogfish landed may exceed the amount of target species landed. Spiny dogfish are limited by the 300 lb/trip overall groundfish limit. The daily trip limits for sablefish coastwide and thornyheads south of Pt. Conception and the overall groundfish "per trip" limit may not be multiplied by the number of days of the trip. Vessels participating in the California halibut fishery south of 38°57.50' N lat. are allowed to (1) land up to 100 lb/day of groundfish without the ratio requirement, provided that at least one California halibut is landed and (2) land up to 3,000 lb/month of flatfish, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs, sand sole, starry flounder, rock sole, curffin sole, or California scorpionfish (California scorpionfish is also subject to the trip limits and closures in line 29).					
54	PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL GEAR (not subject to RCAs)						
55	South	Effective April 1 - October 31: Groundfish: 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/ day and 1,500 lb/ trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/ month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/ month; canary rockfish, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/ trip groundfish limits. Landings of all groundfish species count toward the per day, per trip or other species-specific sublimits described here and the species-specific limits described in the table above do not apply. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.					

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ Minor Shelf and Slope Rockfish complexes are defined at § 660.11. Pacific ocean perch is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish. Blackgill rockfish have a species specific trip sub-limit within the minor slope rockfish cumulative limits. Yellowtail rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish. Bronzespotted rockfish have a species specific trip limit.

3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curffin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ "Shallow Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(1).

5/ "Deeper Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(2).

6/ The commercial minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N lat.

7/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and includes kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

8/ Open access vessels may be allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using hook and line only. See § 660.330 (d) of the regulations for more information.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

TABLE 3 (South) Continued

6. In § 660.360, revise paragraph (c)(2)(iii)(A) to read as follows:

(c) * * *

(2) * * *

(iii) * * *

(A) *Marine fish*. The bag limit is 10 marine fish per day, which includes rockfish,

kelp greenling, cabezon and other groundfish species; except the daily bag limit in the

long-leader gear fishery is 15 fish per day. The bag limit of marine fish excludes Pacific

halibut, salmonids, tuna, perch species, sturgeon, sanddabs, flatfish, lingcod, striped bass,

hybrid bass, offshore pelagic species and baitfish (herring, smelt, anchovies and

sardines). The minimum size for cabezon retained in the Oregon recreational fishery is 16 in (41 cm) total length.

* * * * *

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